

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for playing soccer in a wheelchair by a patient, having the aim of allowing disabled individuals with partial or total immobility of the legs to use their upper limbs to replace these for the practice of ~~the~~ said sport soccer, characterized by the fact that it is composed of a body (1) that reproduces the shape and size of a human foot fairly faithfully, up to the top of the foot, while from the top of the body (1) a short arm (5) emerges, this ending in a handle (6) arranged noticeably parallel to the axis of the body (1), in such a way that ~~the player~~ said patient uses the said handle to manipulate the apparatus, knocking or acting on the ball with the body (1), with the movement of his wrist replacing that of ~~the ankle~~ an ankle.

2. (currently amended) Apparatus for playing soccer in a wheelchair, according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that ~~the body of the base~~ the base of the body (1) is symmetrical ~~respecting~~ representing an imaginary longitudinal, vertical and middle plane, while both sides are concavely curved to facilitate impact on and control of the ball, using the right or left hand.

3. (currently amended) Apparatus for playing soccer in a wheelchair, according to ~~the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized by the fact that its structure may be composed of a single part, or that it may have a structure composed of a multiplicity of parts conveniently assembled together.

4. (currently amended) Apparatus for playing soccer in a wheelchair, according to ~~the above claims~~ claim 1, characterized by the fact that the apparatus itself is equipped with a support ~~[(7)]~~ (8), that is suitable for affixing to any suitable point of a wheelchair, and which allows the apparatus itself to be temporarily held to leave the upper limbs free during the movement of the wheelchair.

5. (currently amended) Apparatus for playing ~~football~~ soccer in a wheelchair, according to claim 2, characterized by the fact that its structure may be composed of a single part, or that it may have a structure composed of a multiplicity of parts conveniently ~~assemble~~ assembled together.

6. (currently amended) Apparatus for playing ~~football~~ soccer in a wheelchair, according to claim 2, characterized by the fact that the apparatus itself is equipped with a support ~~[(7)]~~ (8), that is suitable for affixing to any suitable point of a wheelchair, and which allows the apparatus itself to be temporarily held to leave the upper limbs free during the movement of the wheelchair.

7. (new) A method of playing soccer in a wheelchair, comprising the steps of:

holding an apparatus by a patient, wherein said apparatus comprises a body (1) that reproduces the shape and size of a human foot fairly faithfully, up to the top of the foot, while from the top of the body (1) a short arm (5) emerges, this ending in a handle (6) arranged noticeably parallel to the axis of the body (1);  
and

manipulating said apparatus by knocking or acting on a soccer ball with the body (1) of said apparatus.